

## BIG BUSINESS JOINS WITH U.S. TO WIN TRADE

Notable Conference at Washington Adopts Programme of Action.

## FEDERAL INSURANCE OF WAR RISKS URGED

Changes in Navigation Laws Advocated—Seth Low Heads Workers.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—A conference of many of the most important bankers and business men of the country with Federal officials, which President Wilson characterized as proof that the antagonism between the Government and business is at an end, was held at the Treasury Department to-day in an effort to reach a solution of the problems confronting American commerce as the result of the European war.

The conference after a long discussion decided that the problem resolved itself into three parts—the restoration of the market for foreign bills of exchange, the providing of means for transporting the grain and cotton crops and merchandise abroad and the providing of war insurance for ships which may be induced to enter American registry.

With little debate a resolution was adopted urging that the Government in the present emergency undertake the insurance of ships and their cargoes against war risks. The Governments of France, Great Britain and Belgium already have assumed this responsibility for the mercantile marine under their flags.

Wilson Reserves a Decision.

President Wilson did not deem it wise today to commit himself on the proposal. It was said for him that he had taken it under expert consideration, and the belief among officials is that a favorable expression from him will come within a few days.

There was a distinct disposition among some high officials of the Administration to accept the statement of the bankers and shipping representatives that it is absolutely necessary that the Government insure the American ships and cargoes in order that the much wished for merchant marine may become a possibility.

It was suggested by the conference that the Government establish a bureau of war insurance to consist of five men appointed by the President to handle the business of insurance until the present emergency is over.

A second legislative act which the conference decided to urge upon the Government was a bill to amend the navigation laws as a vital step to the establishment of adequate merchant marine as a thorough revision of the navigation laws.

It was the consensus among those who discussed the navigation laws that the present statutes are a hodgepodge which if unchanged will submit American registered ships to discriminations compared with foreign ships competing with them for American trade.

A committee headed by Seth Low of the New York Chamber of Commerce and made up of twelve prominent bankers and business men was appointed with instructions to proceed with the drafting of a bill covering the matter and to submit it to Congress without delay.

Transportation of Crops.

The same committee was instructed to formulate the best obtainable suggestions for the securing of ships for the transportation of our crops and merchandise to Europe. Strong expressions of confidence came from leading shipping men that once the problems of war insurance and the navigation laws were solved by Congress the American shipping problem would be solved.

The resolution expressing the sense of the conference as to the needed legislative enactments urged the Federal Reserve Board to give special attention to the pressing need for the reestablishment of the market for bills of exchange.

No specific recommendations were forthcoming on that subject, but it was felt that as soon as the problem of getting the crops to market had been dealt with properly the latter problem would be easily adjusted. Members of the Federal Reserve Board were detailed by Chairman McAdoo to confer with Mr. Low's committee on the various aspects of the problem before it.

The committee of twelve lost no time in getting to work. It began its sessions today and will remain in Washington until the initial steps have been taken toward legislation. The committee devoted little thought to drafting a war insurance bill.

Settlement which was advanced at the conference in support of the proposal for the various steps looking toward establishing a merchant marine was that unless American ships her products to Europe in her own ships she will put herself at the mercy of the nations which do furnish the ships.

Mr. Wallace, it was said that if this settlement is adopted the American shipping problem will be solved. The committee will be in a strong position to debate the prices she is paying for the ships. Senator Owen, chairman of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, who participated in the discussion, indicated that this argument had been seriously considered by the conference.

The committee of the navigation laws which the conference believed must be amended concerned the various technical requirements of vessels under American flag, such as to the number of Americans that must be in the crew of such a vessel.

Senator Owen was impressed with the need for the demand for such amendments and he had already prepared a tentative draft of an amendment to be introduced in the Senate.

Although no commitment was made by the conference, it was believed that the conference had laid the basis for a solution of the problem.

## BIG BUSINESS'S SCHEME FOR TRADE DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—A committee of twelve, headed by Seth Low of the New York Chamber of Commerce and representing the big banking and business interests, after a conference with Government officials recommended to-night the following steps for the relief of the present commercial emergency in this country:

"1. That the Treasury Department deposit funds in the leading financial exporting centres to be exclusively used for the facilitation of exports.

"2. The release of funds held in foreign countries resulting from the sale of shipments which have been diverted from their original destinations or commandeered. This question will be taken up with the State Department.

"3. That the Federal Reserve Board take up the question of establishing an international clearing house for the selling of debits and credits of the nations.

"4. The establishment of a Government bureau of war risk insurance to be administered by a director and employees, which shall assume the risks of war on American vessels and on cargoes shipped or to be shipped thereon whenever in the judgment of the bureau it shall appear that the American vessels or shippers are unable in any trade to secure adequate war risk insurance on equal terms with vessels of shippers of other nationalities by reason of the protection afforded such other vessels or shippers by arrangements for war indemnity throughout their Governments.

"5. That there be taken up immediately by Congress such amendments to the navigation laws of the United States as will serve to create a permanent foreign trade, American mercantile marine practicable in character. The sub-committee on shipping hopes to submit a complete report of its views on Wednesday, August 19."

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Aug. 14.—The usual war office bulletin issued at 11:30 o'clock to-night says:

"The aviation branch of the French army has won several triumphs, of which the most brilliant is that near the Voivre River, in Lorraine, where a German aeroplane, flying at a height of 3,000 feet, was brought to earth by rifle fire which disabled the motor. Two German officers who were piloting the aeroplane are prisoners.

"A French aviator chased a German and forced the latter to retreat. The Frenchman fired on the German with his revolver at close quarters.

"German aviators dropped bombs in the department of the Meuse, but no one was injured.

"The peak of Saales, in the Vosges, and the village of Saales have been occupied by French artillery, facilitating the infantry advance into Alsace. There were no casualties. The Germans fled.

"The Belgian army has won victories in the district around Hasselt against German cavalry, which was trying to take the offensive again after its defeat at Diest.

"German infantry is moving toward Vise and Tongres, but no fresh engagements have resulted from this movement.

"The British fleet is assured of absolute safety for the transport of English troops to the Continent."

## 12,000 MEN SURRENDER?

French Repulse Germans and Hold Valley of Bruche.

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LONDON, August 14.—The London newspapers print to-day a despatch from Berlin which was issued by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, as having been officially circulated through all the German wireless stations. It is in the form of an interview with Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, who makes an appeal for American sympathy by reciting the negotiations preliminary to war between Great Britain and Germany. He says:

"The present war is a life and death struggle between the German and the Muscovite races of Russia. It is due to the recent royal murders at Sarajevo. We warned Russia against this war. We warned Russia against the humiliation of Austria, and while the German Emperor continued his work in the cause of peace and the Czar was telegraphing words of friendship to him Russia was preparing for war.

"Then highly civilized France, bound by an unalterable alliance with Russia, was compelled to prepare by strength of arms for an attack on its flank, on the Franco-Belgian frontier, in case we proceeded against the French frontier works.

"England, bound to France by obligations disowned long ago, stood in the way of the German attack on the northern coast of France.

"This therefore forced us to violate the neutrality of Belgium, but we had promised emphatically to compensate that country for all damage inflicted.

"Now England avails herself of the long awaited opportunity to commence war for the destruction of the commercial prosperity of Germany. We enter into that war with our trust in God. Our entire race has risen in a fight for liberty, as it did in 1813.

"It is with a heavy heart that we see England ranged among our opponents notwithstanding the blood relationship and close relationship in spiritual and cultural work between the two countries. England has placed herself on the side of Russia, whose insatiability and whose barbaric insolence have helped this war, the origin of which was murder and the purpose of which was the humiliation by Russian Slavdom.

"We expect that the sense of justice of the American people will enable them to comprehend our situation. We invite to their opinion as to the one sided English representations and ask them to examine our point of view in an unprejudiced way.

"The sympathy of the American nation will then lie with German culture and civilization fighting against a half Asiatic and slightly cultured barbarism."

## HUNTS \$2,000,000 IN RADIUM.

State Department to Inquire About Shipment on Imperator.

# GERMANS, DESPITE REVERSES, ADVANCING STEADILY; ENGLISH AND FRENCH FORCES UNITED NEAR NAMUR; RUSSIA'S 2,000,000 TROOPS READY FOR INVASION

## AVIATORS OF FRENCH ARMY WIN TRIUMPHS

German Aeroplanes Brought Down and Two Officers Captured.

## MANY GERMANS ARE TAKEN PRISONERS

Kaiser's Troops, However, Drive French Battalions From Lagarde.

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## TURKEY SAYS SHE WILL KEEP TWO CRUISERS

Confirms Report of Purchase of the Goeben and the Breslau.

## GREAT BRITAIN AND HER ALLIES PROTEST

Demand Repatriation of Crews of Ships Now in Neutral Dardanelles.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, August 14.—Rifat Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador, referring to the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau, which are reported to have been purchased by Turkey, said to-day:

"We simply seized the opportunity to obtain two cruisers to assure the equilibrium of our naval forces with those of Greece. England exercised the right to requisition two cruisers just being finished for us in the English yards. Greece has just bought two from the United States. The arrival of the German cruisers in the Dardanelles was a windfall. You may be sure we will keep them, as we have paid for them with the fund raised by public subscription to pay for the ships building in England."

The Goeben and the Breslau are at Nagara Kales, the quarantine station in the Dardanelles. It is reported that they searched British, French and Greek ships in the strait and forcibly removed the wireless apparatus from the steamer Saghalien, threatening to sink her if she made resistance.

A report received here to-day says Turkey has just paid \$20,000,000 for the two cruisers.

## DEMAND ON TURKEY.

Triple Entente Powers Want to Know Her Intentions.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, August 14.—A peremptory demand has been made upon Turkey by Great Britain, France and Russia that the German officers and crews of the battle cruiser Goeben and the cruiser Breslau, which are reported to have been purchased by Turkey, be repatriated, that is, sent back to their own country.

Reports received here say that Turkish men-of-war met the two German ships outside and escorted them into the Dardanelles. Although it is generally believed here that Turkey has purchased the two ships no confirmation of this has been received.

Reuters' Paris correspondent says that, contrary to the statement of the Turkish Government, the German flag has not been lowered on either of the two vessels and that the German crews are still aboard.

The Italian view of the reported acquisition of the two cruisers by Turkey is given in the following despatch to the Daily Mail from Rome:

"Turkey's purchase of the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau has made an unpleasant impression here. Italy probably will demand an explanation as to the future use of these ships and also warn Turkey that she will not allow the equilibrium of the lower Mediterranean to be threatened, as Italy is determined to avoid complications."

Greece's position in view of this reported purchase of the two ships by Turkey will be determined at a conference of all former Premiers and the leaders of the various parties, called by King Constantine at the suggestion of Premier Venizelos, according to the Exchange Telegraph Company.

It is still contended here that the purchase of the ships by Turkey is in contravention of international law and that the repatriation of the crews is contrary to the terms of the Hague convention. It is explained that England, France and Russia desired the men returned to Germany in order to remove the temptation from Turkey to employ them under the Turkish flag, which would provoke a rupture. Turkey has renewed her assurance of neutrality.

## REPORT STIRS ITALY.

Indicates Turkey May Abandon Neutrality and Menace Balkans.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ROME, August 14.—The British Humane League received a message from the German Humane League to-day denouncing the Kaiser for the European war. The message, which is dated August 11, contains the following:

"We extend our hands in heartfelt friendship to every Belgian, French and British democrat. We know an international revolution is now proceeding in our midst which will depose the despot, whose insatiable greed is draining Europe with the blood of its workers and wage earners."

"Seeing the impossibility of escape from this fate."

Continued on Second Page.

## Two Commanders Join Forces



Gen. Sir John French.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Aug. 14.—Field Marshal Sir John French, commander of the English expeditionary force, is coming to Paris to-morrow.

He will arrive here at noon and go directly to the British Embassy. He will then call on President Poincaré.



Gen. Joseph Joffre.

Premier Viviani and M. Doumergue, the former Premier. He will see the Minister of War later.

From Paris Gen. French is expected to leave for the French general headquarters to join Gen. Joseph Joffre, the French commander. The location of the French headquarters has not been revealed.

## GERMANS RUSH FORTS AT LIEGE WITH GRENADES

In Mass Formation They Charge Ramparts, but Are Mowed Down.

## AIM OF THE BELGIAN GUNNERS IS DEADLY

Despite Great Losses, Kaiser's Troops Continue Assaults All Day.

## ALLIES INTRENCHING FOR ATTACK AT NAMUR

Russia Now Has 2,000,000 Men on German and Austrian Frontiers.

## Hint Big Battle Is Near

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BRUSSELS, Aug. 14.—The Belgian Ministry of War issued the following portentous announcement this evening:

"In view of the present dispositions of the French and Belgian armies it has been decided in the interest of the country not to make any further announcement of the movements of the armies.

"The Government relies on the patriotism of the press to maintain absolute silence on military operations."

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BRUSSELS, Aug. 14.—The ardent desire of the Germans to capture the forts about Liege, especially those on the left bank of the Meuse, and the enormous importance they attach to the possession of these forts is evidenced again in the determined compact bodies of troops against the ramparts to rush them by the sheer force of overwhelming numbers.

Elsewhere along the line of advance the Germans show how desperately determined they are to take up the positions planned at no matter what cost in lives. This was shown in the Heelen fight, where the German cavalry charged for two days against the barricades as though modern rifle fire was no more dangerous than lances. But nowhere is it shown more plainly than in the desperate courage which has been displayed in the assaults on the Liege forts.

Abandoning the slower process of bombardment for the past two nights the Germans have thrown masses of men armed with hand grenades and similar weapons against the forts. The storming forces, following the example of the Japanese at Port Arthur, brought mattresses and sandbags to fill the trenches and steel shells and intrenching tools with which to make a covert for themselves if they succeeded in establishing a footing on the outer works.

Bravery Is Futile.

But the reckless bravery of the invaders again was futile. The storming parties often were not able to make use of the mattresses and bundles of wood for the filling of the trenches. They would get to the glacis of the Pontisse fort, which was subjected to the most violent of the assault; then Belgian machine guns trained with the deadliest effect on the bare smooth slopes mowed them down. The survivors were forced to fly pell-mell down the slopes, leaving their dead lying in piles outside the fort.

The Belgian gunners were deadly accurate in their fire and were assisted by the firing of star shells, which illuminated the neighborhood of the fort.

The other forts attacked simultaneously with Fort Pontisse were Liers, Lantin, Loncin, Hologne and Flenalle, which in the hands of the Belgians are a powerful weapon against the Germans should the Belgian main army march toward Liege, while for the Germans, if in their hands, they would be a base for an action against the Belgian centre or a defence against attacks.

Fort Pontisse is the one most important of all the forts. It dominates Maastricht, the canal, the railroad and the main road running north to Vise, as well as the Dutch frontier. It has been more instrumental than any of

## WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

BELGIUM.—The German advance through Belgium became more general yesterday all along its front, extending from St. Trond north to Hasselt. Great masses of German troops are reported to be on the way from Cologne by way of Aix-la-Chapelle to support the attack. The Belgians and their allies are throwing up earthworks before Namur to resist an expected attack. There are reports of minor engagements between advance forces, the Belgian War Office claiming success. The Belgians are reported to have frustrated an attempt by a German raiding party to seize the railroad at Loville-Tardieu.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Field Marshal Sir John French, commanding the British field army, is reported to have joined Gen. Joseph Joffre, the French commander in chief, at headquarters. This is believed to indicate that the British and French armies have effected a junction and are now cooperating. The location of the headquarters is not announced. The Admiralty gave out assurance of protection for the transatlantic steamship lanes, and sailing dates have been announced for the Olympic, Mauretania and Lusitania.

FRANCE.—It is officially announced that a large French force has entered Belgium and is proceeding from Charleroi to Gembloux, ten miles northwest of Namur. French outposts claim a victory over the German outposts at Chambrey, in the German province of Lorraine, while two French battalions near Lagarde, in the same province, were driven back across the border. The War Office announces that the French, after successful resistance for five days in the Vosges Mountains have occupied the region of the Saale Pass, commanding the valley of the Bruche, which leads to Strassburg.

GERMANY.—All news of the movements of the German army comes from London, Paris and Brussels, Berlin reporting that no information of movements was given out there yesterday. From the despatches it appears that the German army has begun a general advance, with the main attack in Belgium. Reinforcements are being rushed from Germany for this attack.

RUSSIA.—Rome hears that Russia has mobilized 2,000,000 men on the German and Austrian frontiers, 500,000 on the Rumanian frontier and has 3,000,000 men held in reserve, a total army of 5,500,000 men. The information would indicate that Russia has completed her mobilization and is about ready to attack Germany and Austria.

TURKEY.—Great Britain, France and Russia have sent a sharp communication to Turkey regarding the reported purchase of the German cruisers Goeben and Breslau. Greece and Italy too are concerned over this reported acquisition because of its bearing on the possession of islands in the Aegean.

AUSTRIA.—The invasion of Herzegovina by the Servians is reported to be continuing, and according to reports from Rome the Herzegovinians are arming and rising in support of the invaders.

## PAPER FOR FRENCH SOLDIERS.

Government Prints One Exclusively for Men in Field.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Aug. 14.—The Government is beginning this evening to print a daily paper for the use of the army.

A copy will be sent to each soldier in the field, but it will not be sold to the public.

It reprints all the official communications regarding the war without further details, but gives the news of Paris and the provinces.

The suggestion for such a journal was made by M. Messimy, the Minister of War to Premier Viviani. M. Messimy called the Premier's attention to the fact that as the French armies are spread over 250 miles the soldiers cannot know what is happening and therefore they have no opportunity to develop individual effort.

He says also he wants the French soldier to know what the Government at Paris is doing for the wives and children left behind, so that his courage may be kept up and his heart strengthened to sacrifices for his country.

## KAISER DENOUNCED AT HOME.

German Humane League Calls Him "Tyrant" and "Despot."

By Central News of London.

LONDON, Aug. 14.—The British Humane League received a message from the German Humane League to-day denouncing the Kaiser for the European war. The message, which is dated August 11, contains the following:

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## U. S. ENVOY SEES MINES LAID.

Maxwell Blake Has Exciting Trip on German Ship.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 14.—Maxwell Blake, the American chargé d'affaires at Tangiers, left for Europe on a German steamer.

The vessel was in midchannel when those on board learned that war had been declared. At Cuxhaven they saw a steamer laying mines. At this point they took a small steamer which plies between Grimsby and Hamburg. It usually carries about thirty, which is all it has accommodations for, but this time it was crowded with 400 Germans returning home.

The vessel's pilot was commandeered to take out a tank steamer, and the passengers thanked heaven when they saw the tanker run into a mine and blow up. The Grimsby boat ran up and down the river for three days and all the passengers were finally disembarked at Hamburg. Hamburg was calm.

Mr. Blake assisted the American Consul there until Wednesday, when he was permitted to hire an automobile to go to the Dutch frontier.

The party arrived at Homburg. On the way through the country they saw women engaged in harvesting the crops. All horses had been requisitioned. Discipline everywhere was excellent.

Mr. Blake met several Americans at Rotterdam who had come from Cologne. They told him they had been well treated.

## DUNRAVEN'S YACHT FOR EXILES.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 14.—Lord Dunraven has offered his yacht to the American citizens committee to aid in bringing stranded Americans from the Continent.

Sir Hercules Langhorne, a noted yachtsman, is to be in charge and he will be accompanied by a member of the committee.